

Court's self-help center modifies operations during public health emergency

Albuquerque, New Mexico, May 7, 2020 — The Second Judicial District Court's Center for Self-Help has modified its operations to continue to serving individuals dealing with legal issues without the assistance of an attorney during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The center has closed the window in the courthouse where members of the public normally come for assistance. However, it has opened additional phone lines for reaching self-help center staff, in addition to assigning additional staff to respond to emails seeking help.

The Center for Self Help provides forms that are required for individuals to file or respond to court actions in civil legal cases. The center's staff can tell individuals what information the court requires on the form for a case to proceed. The staff does not provide legal advice.

The center assists more than 13,500 individuals each year.

"The Center for Self-Help is one of the most vital functions of this court. The number of people the center serves each year is an indication of the problem citizens have when it comes to affording legal representation in civil matters," said Second Judicial District Court Chief Judge Stan Whitaker. "The center's staff should be commended for finding creative ways to continue serving the public during this current crisis."

While COVID-19 social distancing measures are in place, the Center for Self-Help is offering the following options for receiving assistance:

- If you have a phone and/or internet access:
 - Please call us from 9 AM until 4 PM, Monday-Friday at one of the following numbers:
(505) 841-6702
(505) 841-7579
(505) 841-5409
 - Or email us at albdselfhelp@nmcourts.gov
 - For assistance in Spanish please call us from 9 AM until 4 PM, Monday-Thursday at 505-841-5413.
 - Or email us at albdselfhelp@nmcourts.gov
- If you do not have a phone or internet access, there are phones located at the Second Judicial District Court that you can use to speak with a Self-Help staff member. Please use the phone located on the first floor at Self-Help Window 1 in Room 119 or the phone on the first floor in the Jury Division in Room 127.

- You don't have to come to Court to get legal forms/packets! Legal forms and packets are available for free by e-mailing us at albdselfhelp@nmcourts.gov, and on our website at <https://seconddistrictcourt.nmcourts.gov/>.
- Legal forms/packets are also temporarily free of charge and available at the Second Judicial District Court on the first floor in Room 119, near the information window.

The Court Clerk's Office remains open to accept forms for filing.